GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5493
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2001
ESTABLISHMENT OF PASSPORT OFFICE IN KERALA
T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a passport office either at Kannur or Kasaragod in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) No, Sir.

(b)&(c)No, Sir. Opening of a new Passport Office is governed by certain criteria such as the location of existing offices and volume of applications from a particular region.

Ministry has embarked on decentralisation of Passport services to accept passport applications at the district level. This is already being done through 23 Speed Post Centres. This facility is being extended in a phased manner.

Besides, as per the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament on the Ministry of External Affairs there should be at least 50,000 applications per annum from the area where a new passport office is to be opened. The number of passport applications received annually from the districts of Kannur and Kasaragod is around 28900 and 14000 respectively. This does not justify opening of a passport office in either of these districts.